DALLY'S THEATRE—1:45—7:45—The Great Ruby, DEEN MUSKE—Wax Works, Grand Concert and Cinemategraph
mategraph
mategr HERALD SQUARE THEATRE 2 8:15-An Arabian

Girl.

REITH'S—Noon to 11 p. m.—Continuous Performance.

KOSTER & BIAL'S—2-8:15—Vaudeville

KNICKORROCKER THEATRE—2:15—8:16—Colinette.

LYCEUM THEATRE—2-8:30—H's Excellency The Gov-MADISON SQUARD GARDEN-2 to 11-Electrical Show.

Loved Him So.

EW-YORK THEATRE 2-7:45 The Man in the Moon ASTOR'S 10:30 to 11 Continuous Performance.

VALLACK'S 2-8:20 The Cuckeo.

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New-Nork Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1899.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

POREIGN.—Chiefs of the delegates to the Peace Conference at The Hague met and agreed on the appointment of three committees. — Envoys from Aguinaldo were arrested by General Luna, though it is generally considered that the end of the war is near. — Cubans expressed much indignation over the report that Secretary Alger disapproved of General Brooke's plan for storing surrendered arms. — The Czar has taken steps to end the transportation of convicts to Siberia. — Riots took place in Paris and Algers, following the acquittal of Max Regis, a leader of attacks on the Jews. FOREIGN.-Chiefs of the delegates to the

DOMESTIC.—President McKinley started from Hot Springs on his return to Washington. ——
Becretary Alger denied the report that General Brooke's arrangements for disarming the Cuban troops had been disapproved. —— The members of the Commission to inspect isthmian canal routes will soon be appointed by the President. —— The reconvening of the Anglo-American Joint High Commission is said in Washington to depend on the disposition made of the Alaskan boundary question. —— Charles R. Buckalew, formerly United States Senator from Pennsylvania, died at Bloomsburg, in that State. —— At the Presbyterian General Assembly the subject of Sunday observance was warmly debated and strong resolutions were adopted. —— Mayor Harrison said he did not want to run for President next year, as Mc-DOMESTIC .- President McKinley started from went to run for President next year, as Mc-Kinley would in all probability be re-elected.

Kinley would in all probability be re-elected.

CITY.—Stocks were dull and lower. —— Testimony was given before the Mazet committee regarding a Harlem undertaker's monopoly of burials from the Harlem Hospital due to Tammany favor; Mr. Moss examined Judge McCarthy, of the City Court, on Tammany assessments of judicial candidates. —— The Police Commissioners called together the commanders and told them they must close poolrooms and other gambling places. —— Governor Roosevelt had a conference with Republican organization leaders but no agreement as to the Ford the opening of the new home of the City Club, at No. 19 West Thirty-fourth-st. — Mayor Van Wyck, talking to a delegation that called on him, said he expected the rapid transft tunnel to be begun before he went out of office. — Work was continued on the French Line steamer La Bretagne, which was rammed on Thursday by the North German Lloyd steamer Barbarossa, which had turned back from Quarantine, owing to a fire in her hold. antine owing to a fire in her hold.

THE WEATHER.-Forecast for to-day: Fair and warmer. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 60 degrees: lowest, 55; average, 57%.

Governor Roosevelt is evidently considering proposed amendments to the Ford bill with an open mind and a firm determination not to be overreached. Several drafts of measures to embody his ideas, but he declares that he is not committed to any one of them. If the corporations think they would be more sure offair treatment from a central board of assessment he is willing and apparently anxious to accommodate them. He is giving careful consideration to their claims for deduction from the tax of what they pay in the way of rental charges for their franchises. He is insistent that franchises shall in any new bill be taxed as real estate and that no tax on earnings shall be substituted. Thus he exhibits a disposition of the greatest liberality and fairness combined with a sturdy defence of effective franchise taxation.

The Governor is entirely right in refusing to abandon the principle of the Ford bill. Taxation of gross earnings would operate most unjustly on the small corporations whose outlay is large in comparison to receipts. Under such a system the least valuable franchises—that is, those bringing in the smallest business in proportion to the cost of the operating plantmight pay the highest tax. The reasonable value of the franchise is the thing to be taxed, and it makes really little difference whether that value once determined is entered in the real estate or the personalty column of the tax books. The tax rate for both is the same. It is said to be a legal fiction to consider such intangible property as real estate, but there are good precedents for so considering it. Years age Judge Selden declared of a franchise granted by the Common Council of this city: "It "amounted to an immediate grant of an interest, "and it would seem of a freehold, in the soil "of the street to the defendant. The rails, "when laid, would become a part of the real es-"tate, and the exclusive right to maintain them perpetually is vested in the defendant.

"The title to the rails when permanently at-"tached to the land, and such right in the land "as may be requisite to their perpetual main-"tenance are therefore granted." The Court of Appeals has again and again held that the franchise was inseparable from the real estate, that it could be bought and sold like real estate, that as in the Broadway Surface Railroad case even when it was obtained by fraud, and the corporation charter was revoked, yet the franchise itself was property which could not be forfeited and was an asset of the receiver of the dissolved corporation. To regard the value of that "freehold" in the street as subject to taxation as real estate does no violence to common sense and works no hardship on the

their rents. Other property holders would like to have their rentals deducted from their taxes. It cannot be said that the rentals paid the city include the taxes. When most of these rentals were agreed upon there were no franchise taxes. If a bargain was made while franchises were yet taxed in fact but not in name, it was the corporation that paid the tax in addition to the rental. If the rental of a franchise is high its value at a sale will be correspondingly low because of that fixed charge. Under the bill as it now stands honest assessors will ing they should do, they would have to make consider that rental charge as an element in use of the very armaments which these same determining the franchise value, as we have previously pointed out, and there is no reason for taking it into account a second time by absolute deduction of the rents from the taxes in | Impossible, and any tyrannically disposed govthe crude fashion provided in one draft of a suggested amendment. If all percentages paid with impunity. Assuredly, it is a vexatious for franchises are to be deducted from franchise factor which is seeking incorporation in the taxes, a corporation might become a public cred-Itor instead of a contributor to public revenues. Franchises vary in value. Some are practically worthless. There may be a charge while the owner is making no money. In that case he might be assessed at nothing and have his rent deducted from nothing. Two franchises of identical character will differ in value according to the fixed charges upon them, and if any corporations are already heavily burdened by payments to the public treasury, as those in Buffalo are said to be, then their franchise assessment must be correspondingly light. A rebate or deduction from any just and intelligent assessment would be a favor not accorded

to other property. The plan of State assessment is certainly not logical, but has reasons of expedience in its favor. A State board in most cases cannot have the knowledge of a local board. There is fear of oppression by local assessors. Our present State assessors are above suspicion. Yet if we were to disregard their high character and look at the general question we should say there was more danger in concentration than in diffusion of the taxing authority. A central body so disposed could wield a tremendous political power over corporations. Moreover, the courts are always open to the over-assessed. The law books are full of cases where assessments have been set aside as excessive. The duty of the assessor, local or State, would be to assess property up to its fair value. If he does, the property-owner has no reason to complain, and if he does more, the property-owner has a sure remedy in the courts; and it is a good thing to have great corporations who have the means and the disposition to fight unjust taxation assessed by the same men who assess individuals, for then if these officers abuse their power they are likely to be called to

On the other hand, it is to be admitted that in dealing with corporations dishonest local assessment might be practically more harmful than the same dishonesty in dealing with the petty accounts of individuals. Under-assessment is as powerful an engine of corruption as over-assessment, and more difficult to prevent if schemes of favoritism or blackmail are attempted. Then, too, the question of franchises from different municipalities making up a single property is one difficult of adjustment by local assessors Considerations of this sort may fairly justify the centralization of assessment, even though it is not logical. The tax itself will not be impaired by the method of assessment, and if anything can be gained, either in soothing the feelings or disarming the fears of anybody, by the change, there is no reason to object to it seriously. But whoever levies the tax, it should be levied, as the Gevernor says, on a direct assessment of franchises themselves, and that tax should not be negatived by deductions of other pretended tax payments which are not tax payments at all.

PEACE AND POLITICS.

Finland and Armenia are raising an interest ing question at The Hague. The Peace Conzation leaders, but no agreement as to the Ford
Franchise Tax bill amendments was reached.
Governor Rooseveit and others speke at
the opening of the new home of the City Club,
of them belongs to the domain of diplomacy, m belongs to the domain of diplomacy. not of domestic politics. The question of reduction of armaments applies exclusively to armies and navies intended for possible operation against foreign antagonists, whether in attack or in defence. There is no thought of dictating to any nation the size of its purely Comestic police force. That is recognized to be a matter which is the nation's own private business, and no one's else. Yet, as we have said, the question of domestic politics and police is being introduced at the Congress. What attention will be paid to it is yet to be seen. Congress, it may be shelved and practically ignored. Nor would such a disposition of it be have been supposed more or less accurately illogical or indefensible. At the same time so much popular interest has been aroused in the matter that there has unquestionably arisen also some expectation that the Congress will

take some formal action upon it. It will be generally conceded, in this coun try and in others having free constitutional governments, that Pinland is at present suffering a great hardship. The constitutional guarantees of mearly a century have been arbitrarily swept away. The promises of all her severeigns since the union with Russia have been repudiated. Freedom of speech and press and worship has been abolished. Autonomy has been abelished. Instead of being a selfgoverning Grand-duchy, Finland has been made a province of Russia. Beyond doubt the American public sympathizes with the Finns in this disaster which has befallen them. Bevend doubt, also, there is widespread sympathy with the Armenians, who are still being misgoverned and harried by Turks and Kurds. We should like to see the Armenians in the enjoyment of full civil and religious liberty. We should like to see the Finns endowed inallenably with all their old-time freedom. But some delicate issues will be involved in trying to secure such ends through this Peace Con-

Russia might well object to the raising of the Finnish question as a bit of meddling with her domestic concerns or with the domestic concerns of the Czar. Turkey, in like fashlon and on like grounds, might object to any discussion of the Armenian question. If the Coninternational issues of peace and war, but with matters of demestic politics and police administration. Moreover, if it takes up Finland, can it refuse to take up Poland? What will it say if France asks it to consider the question of the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine? Then there is the kingship of Hanover; there is the Schleswig-Holstein dispute; there are the claims of Don Carlos to the crown of Spain; there is the Papacy's perennial demand for the restoration | military commander cannot be terminated until of its temporal sovereignty over the States of the Church. There are almost innumerable other questions of like character, which would threaten the Congress in a fleod if once the door were opened to them by the admission of

a single one of their number. It would, no doubt, be within the power of and despotic secret league embracing only a the Congress to consider the extent to which part of a single race of the Philippine inhabione nation, or a combination of nations, may tants. Neither could Congress nor the Presiproperly intervene in the domestic affairs of dent consent to turn over responsibility and another. Such intervention is no uncommon thing, and it might be well to have some inter- | Cuba who may secure the support of a majority They say it duplicates the taxes of some of them because they pay the city for their rights, and they ask the Governor to have such payment deducted from the franchise tax. Such such as the country will demand that there shall be some evidence what the people actually desire in each support of a majority of the so-called soldiers, at the most not a tenth of the so-called soldiers, at the most not a tenth of the adult male inhabitants of the island. The South of the adult male inhabitants of the island. The Country will demand that there shall be some evidence what the people actually desire in each of land in Thompson, Conn. He will expend \$700.

a deduction would simply be a gift to them of that such intervention almost invariably and and all of these new possessions before any step on a large country house and improvements to FRENCH LITERARY HEROES. necessarily makes for war. We have just had proof of that in the case of our own intervention in the affairs of Spain. Beyond doubt the United States was morally and legally justified in its intervention. But beyond doubt, also, that intervention provoked war; it had to be effected in a militant manner; and it necessitated a great increase in this Nation's armaments. So if the European Powers were to intervene in Armenia, as some of the most ardent advocates of universal peace have been demandadvocates want them to abolish. If the armaments of nations be restricted to the needs of domestic police service, intervention is made ernment may oppress and massacre its subjects great problem at The Hague.

THE MAYOR FOR RAPID TRANSIT. Something has been gained by the Mayor's positive and rather unexpected declaration to a delegation of citizens who called upon him yesterday that underground roads will certainly be built by the city, and that the work will be begun before he goes out of office. The city is not yet in a position, he said, to start the undertaking, but it will be so soon as the constitutional amendment separating the city and county debts has been ratified by the people. They will vote on that proposition next November, and it is virtually certain that they will approve it, so that, taken at its face value, the Mayor's statement means that all the obstacles which have obstructed the Rapid Transit scheme so long, and of which the hostility of Tammany has been the most formidable, will all be out of the way by the end of the year. Whether or not it is really safe to conclude that the municipal administration will hereafter co-operate with the existing Rapid Transit Commission remains to be seen. Doubtless Tammany hopes to control the next Legislature, and would rejoice to be able to turn out the present commissioners and replace them with men of its own choosing; but happily there is not much danger of such a calamity, especially since the Governor, even if a scheme of that sort should get through the Legislature, would have the last word on the subject.

It is possible also that when the Mayor assures his visitors that underground roads will be in process of construction before the end of his term he is assuming that the East River Tunnel bill can be utilized for the purpose by the city government in entire independence of the Rapid Transit Commission. If that is the Tammany expectation we are strongly inclined to think it will be rudely disappointed. At all events there is no immediate cause for anxiety on that account. The fact of present interest and importance is that the Mayor has publicly adopted the view that the city will soon be financially able to undertake the work. that it ought to do so, and, in his opinion, will do so in the near future.

THE NEW POSSESSIONS.

It was scarcely midnight here and May 17 had not begun when the dispatch from Manila, half-way round the world, dated about noon of May 17, told of the taking of another rebel capital that morning. We get the news from that part of our country before it occurs, not only the falsehoods of Americans who are opposed to their flag and of their leaders, the Filipino Junta, adings of actual events which beat the sun in his westward march. General Lawton at San Isidro, whence Aguinaldo started in a wagon three days earlier "to avoid the Americans," pushes the rebellion off toward the mountains, where an organized force cannot long be maintained. Landing of American forces on Mindanao, the second island of the Philippines in size, marks progress far to the south-

ward. General Wood, whose reputation as a military commander of rare wisdom is established, reorns from a tour through the province of Santiago and reports the country quiet, indus tries everywhere resuming, brigandage scarcely known anywhere except in stories of Cuban politicians, and the people anxious only for greater security that their present well-being will continue. He does not say so, but everybody can read between the lines that the inhabitants who do business, have estates or are engaged in productive work prefer the certain safety which American government gives to the meteoric and explosive possibilities of government by Cuban politicians. Men whose furious-Under the strict letter of the Czar's call for the ly selfish ambition sets them quarrelling among themselves every time they meet to do anything for their country have advertised that they would be poor guides for a young nation, even if they had not vindictive memories to inflame them and hunger to despoil the Spaniards. Substantial Cubans who desire order and peace can foresee as well as the Spaniards the acts of oppression, the outbreaks of violence and the warfare of factions which Cuban government would involve under conditions now existing or likely to exist in the near future. It will not be possible to refuse to the people the protection of just and impartial laws and a strong government if they ask it, and every hour of restless and childish wrangling among would-be leaders of the Cubans renders it more probable that a majority of the people will ask such government and no other.

Some good men, who have learned by personal intercourse with the people what conditions really are in Cuba, confess that they do not believe a stable and just self-government can be established there at present, but reason that the United States is bound first to give the inhabitants a trial. It has no right, they argue, to force upon the people a government by the United States without their desire. Certainly not, and neither has it a right to force upon them government by Cuban factions without their desire. It has no right to deny them protection if they ask it, nor the just and stable government which cannot at present be expected except under United States authority. It will not discharge its own duties unless it seeks to know the will of the people of Cuba before deciding upon any change. If it gives them opportunity to declare freely whether gress takes them up, it will be dealing not with they prefer American government or independence and such government as they are prepared to establish and support the United States can judge of their readiness for free institutions by the way they meet that test, but would have no right whatever to cast off its responsibilities at a time when the people of Cuba

are not ready to assume them. With regard to all these new possessions, the responsibilities and powers of the President as a solution can be reached which he can in good conscience accept as giving promise of a just and stable government by the people. Congress could not consent, and he could not consent if Congress were willing, to turn over responsibiltty and power in the Philippines to a savage power to a faction of ambitious politicians in

power in the hands of a Philippine or Cuban leader. But it seems likely to be some time be fore the real people of the new dependencies decide for any other than American government.

THE PRINCE AND THE ACERICA'S CUP. It is announced that the Prince of Wales and his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, will have a private view of the Shamrock before she is launched, and it is also remarked that Sir Thomas Lipton has been the guest of the Prince at Sandringham this There can therefore be no further doubt that the Prince is interested in Sir Thomas's venture in the sportsman's world, and intends to show every one that he personally accepts Sir Thomas as a representative yachtsman and as one entitled to uphold the yachting prestige of England.

These facts mean a good deal for the yachtsmen of America. The Prince of Wales has for many years been accepted as the leading yachtsman of England, not only because of his social rank, but because he is a skilled hand on a boat and always works on board in a way that calls forth friendly feelings in every practical yachtsman who sees him. He not only leads in the most aristocratic club, but also in the Yacht Racing Association, which gathers in the amateurs of the United Kingdom. His announced friendliness with Sir Thomas Lipton is therefore a mild rebuke to those who think that Lord Dunrayen's procedure, whether right or wrong, should still receive a patent approval. On this point The Tribune has never said that Lord Dupraven was consclously incorrect when suggesting that the Defender was ballasted at the wrong time. On the contrary, The Tribune, on grounds of exceptional authority, came to the conclusion that he was honestly mistaken. It is evident that the Prince of Wales holds similar views, and, after calmly surveying the whole unfortunate affair, is content "to let it go at that," and thus make the best of a situation in which some people will remain unconvinced forever. Many have remarked that the Prince has not been unfriendly with Lord Dunraven since 1895, showing that he considered him to be within his technical rights in asking for an investigation; but while the charge, no matter how honest, was certainly unwise the Prince probably remembers that the retaliation was severe, and he is now doing his best to smooth over a deplorable occurrence and to reinstate conditions more favor-

able to good sport. In repurchasing the Britannia for the purpose of providing the Shamrock with a speed companion for the testing of her paces, the Prince has done something in a quiet way which assists in every direction-not only in advancing the interests of the best sport, but in reestablishing the interchange of good feeling between the sportsmen of both countries. The purchase of the Britannia with the intentions ndicated in last Tuesday's Tribune is one of the many acts by which the Prince of Wales has shown that as a healer of old troubles he has no rival.

It is now in evidence that Tammany plunders the grave, and no doubt the cradle as an object of extortion will soon be added to the record.

The Barbarossa's passengers are presumably onsoled in large measure for the annoyances to which they have been subjected by thinking of what would have happened if the fire had escaped detection a day or two longer.

It is pleasing to hear that the Nicaragua Canal Commission is agreed upon the practicability of constructing the canal at a cost somewhat less than that reckoned in many former estimates. Highly gratifying is it, also, to have the Commissioners favor a canal of ample dimensions for the safe and speedy passage of the largest ocean steamers and warships, and of the most substantial construction. Now let us have the canal, at the earliest possible moment, with the Stars and Stripes flying at each end of it and all along the way.

Chief Devery's latest instructions to his subordinates indicate that he is not quite so easy in his mind as he would fain appear to be.

It is a pleasure to observe Mr. Quigg's frank acknowledgment that he has learned a good deal during the last two years. We hope it will be proved during the next few months that he has learned all that the president of the Republican County Committee needs to know.

And now they have discovered microbes in whiskey! No wonder "Jack" Chinn has signed a treaty of peace with his recent foes and hastened back to Kentucky to look after things. He is sorely needed, if there is anything more than purest corn-juice in the glass that both cheers and inebriates.

PERSONAL.

G. L. Watson, of Glasgow, the designer of the Britannia, Valkyrie and other famous yachts, refuses to have anything to do with a boat after it once leaves his hands. He has never owned yacht, and so jealously does he guard his model-room that no one has ever gained access thereto save Lord Dunraven and Lord Lonsdale, who rep-resented the German Emperor in the building of the Meteor.

Mrs. Mary P. Coats, of Philadelphia, celebrated her 102d birthday on Thursday. Her family was represented in every war from that of the Revolution to the Civil War, and it was a great source of grief to her that her sons were too old to enlist in the Spanish war.

Admiral Schley likes to tell how he was once an amateur aeronaut. As a boy he visited a Maryland County fair, ascended in a balloon, which rose eighty feet in the air, was wrecked and le

the meteorologist, Adam Paulsen, who has made a special study of the Northern Lights. Paulsen in tends to leave Copenhagen on July 3 for the north coast of Iceland, where he will erect an observa-tory for the study of auroral displays. He in-tends to remain till June 3, 1900.

nospitality of Americans is overwhelming. Washington I made the acquaintance of a gentleman who invited me to luncheon at the leading diplomatic and social club. I had no claim upon him of any sort, beyond the most casual introduc-tion. He regaled me with Little Neck clams, terrapin and all the delicacies of the season, and invited to meet me half a dozen of the most interesting that moment. I found myself seated next an exceedingly amiable man, whose name I had not caught when we were introduced. One of the first America? no one over asked me that—but 'Where was I going next?' To Boston. 'Where was I going to put up?' I thought of going to the T— Hotel. 'Much better go to the U— Club.' he replied: Twe no doubt they will be able to give you a room. As soon as luncheon is over I shall thing is ready for you.' I, of course, thanked him warmly. 'But what credentials shall I present?' I asked. 'You don't require any—just present your was a man whom I met ten minutes before, whose was a man whom I met ten minutes before, whose name I did not know, and to whom I had been introduced by a man whom I barely knew! And he was as good as his word. Arriving in Boston at a somewhat unearfuly hour is the morning, I found my reom allotted me, and the club servants ready to receive me with every attention. I felt like the Prince in the fairy tale, only that I had done nothing whatever to oblige the good fairy."

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The ties on the Santa Fe track in California are pickled" in a solution of chloride of salts of zinc There are three or four big "pickling' establishments at intervals along the road between Albu querque and Los Angeles. The process makes pine tie immortal. In this dry atmosphere it lasts forever. The Santa Fe tracks through the deserts are sprinkled with oil to keep down the dust, oll is renewed once in three years. It costs \$30 a mile, and it is worth many times the money to the passengers.

A Frank Explanation.—First Citizen—Sir, your watch chain hangs loosely from the buttonhole. When did you last see your watch? Second Citizen—As I turned away from the pawn-broker's counter.—(Jewelers' Weekly.

Some years ago Lieutenant Lansdale, who was killed at Samoa, visited Corea on one o the American cruisers. He had a bicycle with him, and when Chemulpo was reached went ashore for a ride. It was the first bicycle the ignorant and superstitious coolies had seen, and they fled at the first sight of the strange man gliding along on it. The King heard of the wonderful machine and Lansdale received a polite summons to come to Seoul and bring his wheel. He did so, and taught the King to ride. The latter at once ordered a royal collection of wheels, and he and Lansdale took many rides together. They grew to be excellent friends, and the young officer was always a welme guest at the Court. The friendship endured to

A Fair Jury.—In a suit between father and son before a Hoosier Justice of the Peace, the sextet comprising the jury came in after three hours' deliberation, with the following impartial verdict: "We the jury agree to find judgment for neither plaintiff nor defendant, and find that each pay half the costs." It is said the verdict struck every one as being so unusually fair that even the parties to the action were satisfied.—(Case and Comment.

"The Philadelphia Record" says: "In moving the 260,000,000 in silver dollars from the Mint and the Postoffice vaults to the new Mint, Superintendent H. K. Boyer has just made the discovery that \$2,000,000 of the silver cart wheels are unfit for cir culation. They are rusty and mouldy, having been wet by water which percolated through the vaults of the Mint years ago, and caused the bags in which they were stowed to rot. This might seem a serious matter if it were not for the fact that the dollars are not really intended for circulation. They are simply held to give value and security to the silver certificates issued against them, and for this reason they will not be cleaned, not being needed for circulation; but will be allowed to continue to rust and grow tarnished in the splendid big vaults of the new Mint."

The attorney for the plaintiff in an action for killing a dog said: "Gentlemen of the jury, he was a good dog, a fine-appearing dog, a valuable dog, and it does not lie in the mouth of the defendant to say he was a worthless cur, because it is in evidence before you that on one occasion he offered to for one of his pups."—(Case and Comment.

George Wilder, of Madison, Wis., who is pursuing some special lines of study in Zurich, Switzerland, is highly incensed over the treatment he received at the hands of the local Health Department recently. A son having been born to him, he notified the proper department, as is compulsory, and demanded the certificate which, according to law, he must have. Being a patriotic American, he desired his son's name to be George Dewey Wilder, but here he reckoned without his host, for the official in-formed him that inasmuch as Dewey was not a name in any of the four isnguages spoken in this country-German, French, Italian and Romanishthe name could not be accepted. After an hour's parleying, the officials agreed, however, to name the young American George - Wilder.

Belated Consideration.—Mrs. Rich—Mr. Gotrocks must have been very fond of his wife. He's had her picture framed in fine gold.

Mrs. Wise—I; would have been more considerate to have surrounded her with fine silver while she was alive.—(Jewelers' Weekly.

"The London Star" says: "We are requested by the Editor of 'The Contemporary Review' to state on his behalf that the article entitled 'Liberal Catholicism, by 'Romanus,' which appeared in the December number of 'The Contemporary' of 1897, was neither written nor inspired by an American bishop. It appears that a prelate of American nationality has been suspected for some time past by the Roman Curia of having directly or indirectcontributed to the article. This is an error which it would be needless to notice if it were not that the Bishop in question is being treated as an enemy within the walls."

It is a Bath physician who tells the following:
"Some time ago I happened to spend the night in a country town not far from Bath, and it happened that there was stopping at the same hotel an itinerant eye specialist.

erant eye specialist.
"We drifted into a conversation, and during the course of the evening he told me of some of the marvellous operations he had performed on the eye. One case in particular he spoke of that caused me considerable astonishment, for I didn't know, I confess, that the operation had been successfully performed. He said he had recently taken out a patient's eye, scraped the back of it and returned it to its proper place. The patient, he said, was never troubled by bad eyesight afterward.

"That was a difficult operation, doctor, said I.
"Yes, said he, "It was."
"I suppose you found it necessary to employ an anesthetic."

'Yes, I did,' he admitted. 'What anæsthetic did you use, doctor?' I per-

sisted.
"Oh well, unless you are familiar with such operations you probably wouldn't understand if I were to tell you. But—well, it was shaped something like a spoon, explained the eminent specialist."—(Lewiston Journal.

"The Pittsburg Chronicle" tells of a woman who dearly loves to use big words, and she does not always use them correctly. The other day a neighbor complained of inces

sant pain in her back, whereupon the user of big "I would consult Dr. Pellets for pains in the

back. He's the finest bacteriologist that I know of." Her Accomplishments.—"Has your daughter really learned anything at the cooking school?"
"I don't know. The things she says she knows how to cook are so expensive that we can't afford to try them."—(Chicago News.

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

WHAT MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED.

From The New-York Times.

The mitigation of the cruelties of war is pretty sure to be advanced, because it will arouse little jealousy. On the exemption of marine commerce from interruption there will be more difficulty in reaching an understanding, but it will be by no means impracticable. But the subject as to which the result of the conference is likely to have the most value is arbitration. Not that a formal convention is apt to follow, but because public opinion, the international conscience, if we may so term it, will find expression, and its influence will be felt.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GATHERING. From The Philadelphia Times.

From The Philadelphia Times.

As the conference has no real powers and at the most can only adopt good resolutions, the precise form the resolutions may take is probably not of great importance. Its main significance is in the fact that such a conference should be held at all, and in that fact there is not a little encouragement for those who believe that the world does move and in the direction of a better civilization.

From The Providence Journal.

From The Providence Journal.

There are some reforms of real practical value to which the nations might, and probably would, agree, if this conference should strongly recommend their adoption, prominent among them being the equitable protection of private property in time of war if this should be the only palpable result of the interesting discussions that are to be carried on at The Hague during the next few weeks, the gathering could not be said to have been entirely fruitless. DISARMAMENT IMPRACTICABLE.

From The St. Louis Globe-Democra

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The question of partial disarmament comes up at a time when armament prevails on a greater scale than ever. Behind this development is deep-seated distrust among the nations. They would be suspicious of rules of disarmament and ready to charge inequalities in their application. Each country must face its own emergencies, and their gravity, of course, would vary according to circumstances.

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION From The Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

From The Pittsburg Commercial Gazette.

The decisions of an international court of arbitration would not need to be binding and final in order to be of great benefit to humanity. The country that presented its case to this tribunal before engaging in war with another nation and found its position met with disapproval of that tribunal would assuredly be slower to resort to war than if the view taken were more in its favor.

THE DEBT TERROR.

From The Boston Globe.

ENTHUSIASM IN HONORING THE MEMO-RIES OF RACINE, CORNEILLE AND BALZAC

NOTABLE FEATURES OF THE BALZAC CENTER NARY-NEW PLAYS AND OPERAS IN PARIS-

CHARRIER'S "RRISEIS"_CARRE AND BILHAUD'S "MA BRU."

Paris, May 9.

Seldom has the desire to honor the memories of great men been manifested throughout France with such enthusiasm and public spirit as characterize the celebrations for Racine, Corneille and Balzac. This retrospective hero-worship is largely attributed to the Dreyfus revelations, which cause people to turn with a sense of relief to more congenial personalities, and it is, oddly enough, the very Deputies who have taken the most active part in the various phases of the Dreyfus affair who now propose that the remains of Balzac, Edgar Quinet, Michelet, Lamartine and Alfred de Musset shall be transferred to the Panthéon. Profiting by the experience of their overzealous colleagues who moved that the remains of Turgot be placed in the Panthéon-a proposition which brought forth a vigorous counter-petition from Turgot's descendants, who stated that it was in accordance with Turgot's will that his body had been buried in its present resting-place, where his family now begged it might be allowed to remain-the Chamber has appointed committee to confer with the descendants of all the candidates for the honors of the Panthéon, before taking further steps in the matter. The Balzac Centennial, which began last Sun-

day at Tours, where the author of the "Comedia Humaine" was born on May 16, 1779, will continue through the present month. The Socialist Municipal Councillors felt offended because the clergy and landed gentry of Touraine had anticipated them in their preparations. The Municipal Councillors were, moreover, indignant because M. Brunetière had been invited to deliver an address on the occasion, and they jumped to the conclusion that the eminent academician and member of the Ligue de la Patrie Francaise would transform Balzac into a "clerical reactionist" and "anti-revisionist!" The Munioipal Council consequently refused to vote the money for the opening Balzac fêtes, and decided to have a Balzac celebration of its own "after the Royalists and Clericals had finished." This furnishes a striking example of the hatred and bitterness that Frenchmen show toward one another even when seeking to honor their own

The address which M. Brunetière delivered on Sunday is considered by many the ablest and clearest appreciation of Balzac that has been made since Taine's remarkable essay. M. Brunetière after drawing a happy parallel between Balzac and Walter Scott, reminded his hearers that Balzac's influence on novels cobe compared only to that exercised by Molière on the drama. Among those present at the Balzac celebration Sunday was "Le Père Tasse," a sturdy octogenarian tailor, who for many years made Balzac's clothes. In the course of an interview with M. Adolphe Brisson, of the Paris "Temps." "Le Père Tasse" said:

"Oh, I remember M. de Balzac distinctly. He used to write all the time. He was always kind and affable. He used to wear the most extraordinary trousers I ever saw. He would insist upon my making them of a peculiar nut-brown colored cloth, with wide straps fastening beneath the shoes. From the knee down the trousers were cut so as to fall in deep, voluminous folds so as to keep the calves of his legs warm while writing." "Le Père Tasse" lives at the hospice of Tours, and he has a plentiful store of reminiscences of his renowned customer. The venerable tailor of Balzac is likely to be one of the great sights of Tours during the coming travelling season.

On Sunday evening a representation of Balzac's "Mercadet" was given in the Tours Theatre by the actors of the Comedie Française, and on Monday the literary and artistic visitors in large breaks and motor carriages, and on peroleum tricycles and bicycles, visited the places in the Valley of the Indre wherein Balzac re sided from time to time, where he placed the characters of "Lys dans la Vallée," and where Felix de Vandenesse and Mme, de Mortsauf had

their quarrels and firtations.

The spring crop of new plays is unusually abundant. No fewer than eleven new comedies, vaudevilles, farces, balle's and operas have been brought out in the last ten days. "Briseis," the first act of an unfinished opera by the late Emmanuel Chabrier, with libretto by Ephraim Mikhael (also dead), and Catulle Mendes, which was produced at the Grand Opera House last night, contains some deliclous music. The orchestration is charming and brilliant. It is not the Briseis of Achilles and Agamemnon, as one might suppose, but another Briseis, who lived at Corinth during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian. Hylas, a young Corinthian, who is betrothed to the blond Briséls, is about to embark for Syria to obtain the wealth which will enable him to marry the object of his love. Thanasto, Briséis's mother, who has been etcretly converted to Christianity, and who is on her deathbed, implores her daughter to renounce paganism, and makes the conversion of Hylas to Christianity the condition of the projected marriage. To this Briséis consents. There is & triumphal hymn to the glory of the Saviour and a duo sung by Hylas and Briseis. This operation fragment here comes to an abrupt ending, which causes the most profound regret that Chabrier could not have lived to complete the work. Catulle Mendes, the only one of the three collaborators on "Briseis" now alive, was present at the first performance last night, and said that he considered it a sacred duty to the memory of Chabrler to produce the work ex-

memory of Chabrier to produce the work exactly as the composer left it, without adding a line or note. It will be recollected that Lamoureux at his concerts two years ago gave some selections from the music of "Brisels" which were received with unusual enthussasm. "Ma Bru" ("My Daughter-in-Law"), the remarkably clever comedy by Fabrice Carré and Bilhaud, which was produced at the Odéon, is the latest theatrical success of the season. It is a comedy of manners. Mme. Leverdier, mera, is a tyrannical mother-in-law who, from her apartments in a flat situated just above that of is a tyrannical mother-in-law who, from her apartments in a flat situated just above that of her son and his wife, Mme. Leverdier, jeune, exercises a scrutinizing supervision of all that goes on below. There is a speaking-tube connecting the two apartments. At a dinner party in the elder lady's dining-room, both ladies, by a dressmaker's blunder, appear in gowns of the same cut, cloth and color.

This is the straw that breaks the camely

same cut, cloth and color.

This is the straw that breaks the camel's back. Indescribable confusion ensues. Mme. Leverdier, jeune, retires to her flat and has a little dinner of her own. Soon in comes her husband. After a while old M. Leverdier rushes in, and so on until all the characters appear, as they have each in turn deserted the mother-inlaw. In another scene Mme. Leverdier, having gone to surprise her daughter-in-law at a fee-a-tee with a supposed lover, finds her own elderly husband on his knees before her bosom friend.

All this sounds very tame on paper, but the comedy is composed with such a thorough knowledge of stage situations, and is written in such sprightly language, accentuated by crisp-ness of movement and action, that it is consid-ered to be the most substantial success that the Odéon has brought out for a number of

JUDGE GROSSCUP GETTING RETTER Ashland, Ohio, May 19.-Judge Grosscup's illness has been gastro-enteric fever, with indications that the weakness arising from the effects of the fever is what causes the physician the most apprehen-sion. His temperature has fallen to 99. Owing to the weakness of the heart there was cause for alarm, but the patient has railied, and is now coa-siderably improved.